

Elk Rapids In-Town Trail Route Timeline

June 17th, 2019- Village of Elk Rapids unanimously approved preliminary design of the Acme-to-Elk Rapids Trail. This trail segment will enter the village on the west side of US 31.

June 17th, 2019- In council meeting Village President Janisse tasked council trustee West to head up an in-town trail route. A task group was formed including representation from the grassroots Trail Team, Parks & Recreation, the DDA, the Trail Town Designation Group, Elk Rapids Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, the County and Township, as well as expertise offered by Networks Northwest, TART Trails, our DPW, Police Chief and residents. It was decided to follow the same input process with the in-town trail that was used to determine the Acme to Elk Rapids Trail.

June – Sept 2019 – In-town Trail task force meets and evaluates possible village routes. Discusses goals and objectives. The In-town trail routing task force is ready to engage community and experts in route selection process.

September 16th, 2019 – Village of Elk Rapids hosts public open house to help inform trail routing of the Traverse City ↔ Charlevoix Trail through the Village of Elk Rapids. An online comment form was available through the first week of October for those who could not attend. Three routes were identified as possibilities as this time, US31, Bridge Street and South Bayshore. The South Bayshore Route was preferred by 60% of attendees, 33% Bridge Street and 7% US31.

November 26th 2019 - C2AE Engineering Firm that was tasked with assessing the 3 route alternatives and providing feedback for consideration by the Village and Project Team and recommends South Bayshore Route based on design standards, site visits, and an evaluation that reviews criteria including overall constructability, recreational experience, safety, natural resource impacts, connectivity, cost considerations and more.

November – March 2019- In town Trail Task force evaluates information from the public input session and C2AE Engineering firm and supports recommending South Bayshore as the preferred route. Village staff works to send out a mailer to all residents adjacent to South Bayshore Route, mailing response time was extended to include more addresses.

March 9, 2020- Adjacent landowners outreach meeting. The meeting provided landowners with an opportunity to hear from Village representatives, the design engineers, and representatives of the Nakwema Trailway Project Team about the routing process, considerations for trail routing, and a preliminary route recommendation through the Village. Handouts included the summary of public input from the public open house and online public comment period, stakeholder meeting summary, and the engineering assessment, including the proposed route and map.

April 20th 2020- Chief Centela, writes village to recommend South Bayshore route. He suggests changing route by turning at Cedar instead of Dexter to avoid 39 parking spaces and travel down Isle of Pines that is less traveled by motorized vehicles. When route is in place the Chief would insist on short term assessments with periodic follow ups by the police department.

May 12th 2020- C2AE Engineering firm reviews Chief Centela's route update and are in agreement and support of change in route.

May – July 2020 – In-town Trail teams compiles all information and makes a decision to recommend South Bayshore route to Village Council.

July 6 2020- Village Council approves South Bayshore Route.